



## The Danger of a Single Story

### Materials Needed:

- *The Danger of the Single Story*, a TedTalk by Chimamanda Adichie. Located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg>
- Paper and pens

### Learning Objectives:

- Students will begin developing understanding of their own prejudices.
- Students will understand how those biases affect those around them, especially in their service experience.
- Student will develop the ability to start questioning those biases.

### Overview:

1. Hand each student a piece of paper and a pen.
2. Give the students the prompt: What are some stereotypes or assumptions people have had about you as a person? It could be related to your race/ethnicity, gender, where you're from/hometown, home life, financial status, physical features, etc.
3. Ask the student to write down several answers to the prompt to share with the group later.
4. Next, ask the students a second prompt: What are some prejudices or assumptions you may have had about the clients at your organization of service?
5. Ask the students to also write some answers to this prompt below their previous answers to later share with the group.
6. Play the video for all the students to watch.
7. After the video is complete, ask the students to share what they had previously written down.
8. Discuss each student's response to the prompts.
9. Lead into discussion questions and use the questions as a guide and let the conversation flow.
10. Closing questions and comments.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What is the danger of incomplete-single story? How could that affect how you treat a person?
  - The single story robs people of dignity. Whereas a complete story shows how we are similar and helps build a sense of community. As Chimamanda Adichie says "stories can break and also repair ones dignity".
2. Why is it important to recognize similarities between yourself and others?